

INSTRUCTIONAL MEMORANDUMS

To Local Public Agencies



To: Counties and Cities	Date: January 11, 2017
From: Office of Local Systems	I.M. No. 1.020
Subject: Pavement Friction Evaluation Program	

Contents: This Instructional Memorandum (I.M.) includes guidelines and procedures for a Local Public Agency (LPA) to request a pavement friction evaluation, as outlined in Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) Policy No. 600.01, "Pavement Friction and Uneven Pavement Surface Program".

When requested by a LPA:

1. The Iowa DOT Office of Construction and Materials shall conduct friction tests on pavement sections and report test results to the LPA's office, and
2. The appropriate District Office shall assist in evaluating friction test data.

The results are commonly referred to as friction numbers. The friction number is simply the coefficient of friction of the wetted pavement multiplied by 100. It has been established that the frictional properties of pavements may vary on a seasonal basis. Indications are that pavement friction is at its lowest level during the summer months.

The Iowa DOT has established a procedure for reviewing friction numbers for tests on Primary roads, which is documented in Iowa DOT Policy 600.01. For a copy of that policy, contact the Office of Local Systems.

Upon request, the Iowa DOT's Friction Review Committee is available to assist the LPA in the review and analysis of the results.

More information on the subject of pavement friction is available from the Office of Construction and Materials, Special Investigations Section at 515-239-1357.

Note: The LPA will be billed for the cost of a Pavement Friction Evaluation. To review the Iowa DOT Inspection Costs, see [Materials I.M. 103, Appendix A](#).